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JIM SINCLAIR • RONDA PATTISON
MAXX
MAXXIMIZED
IDW
#15

THE MAXX
MAXXIMIZED

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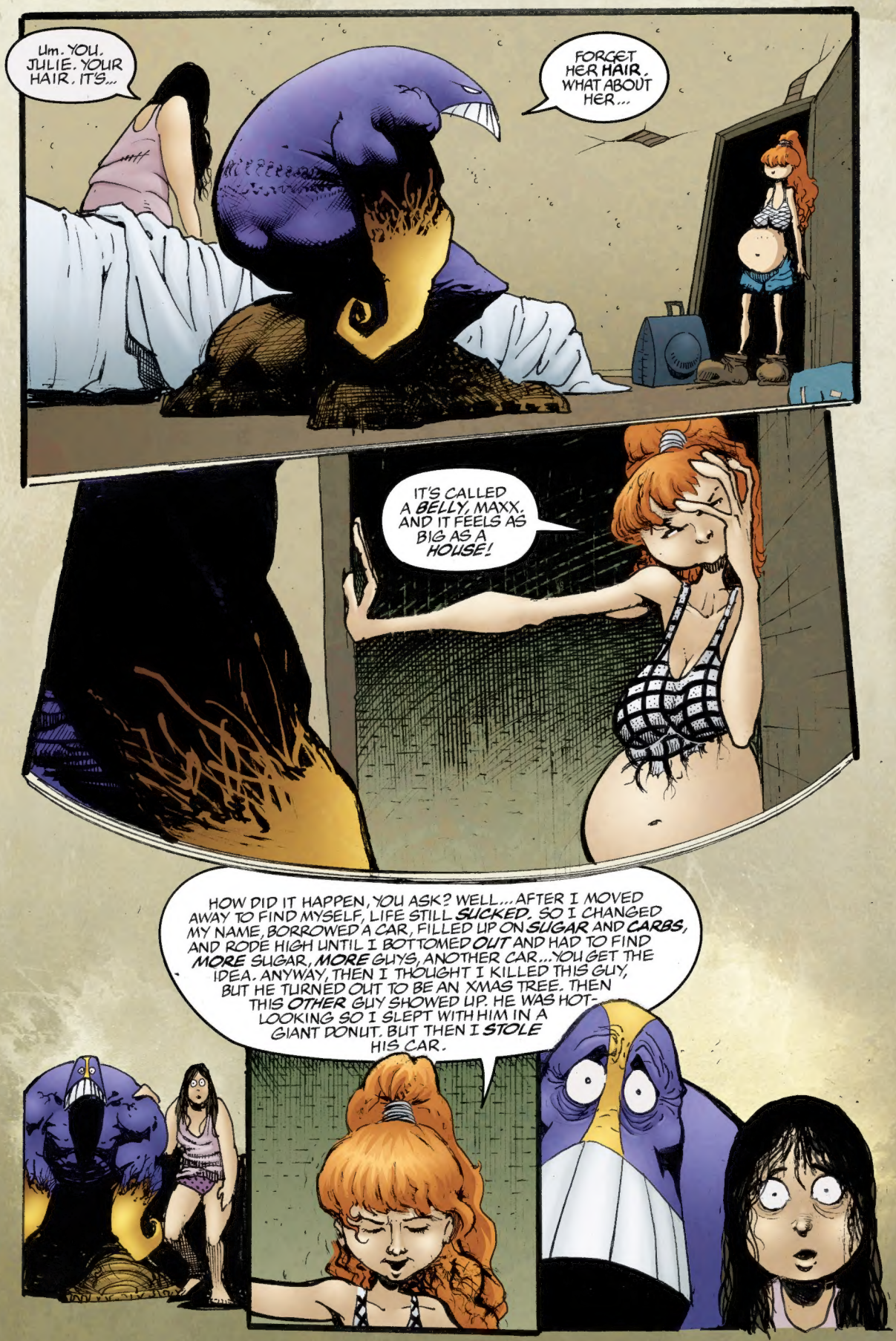
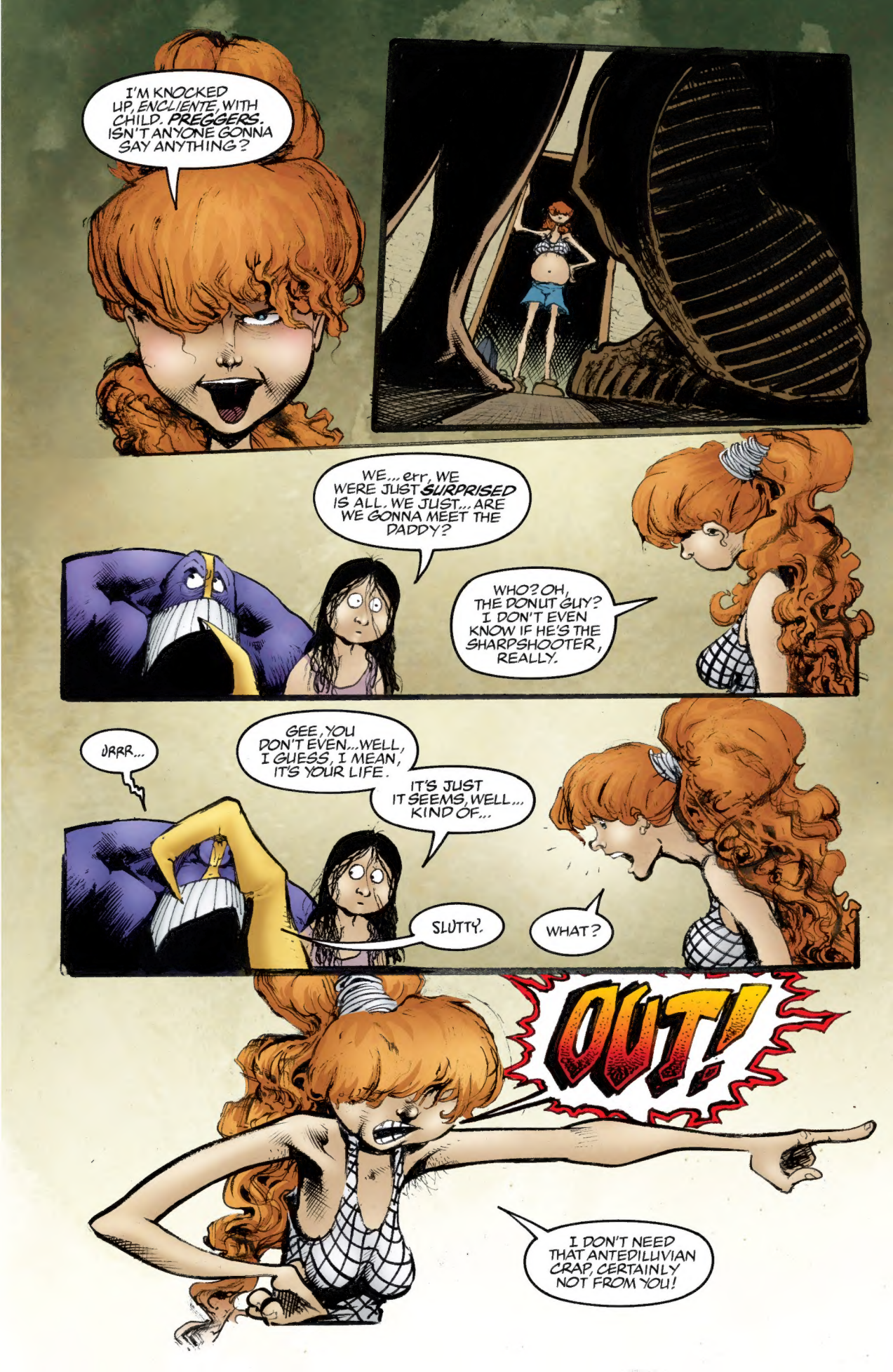
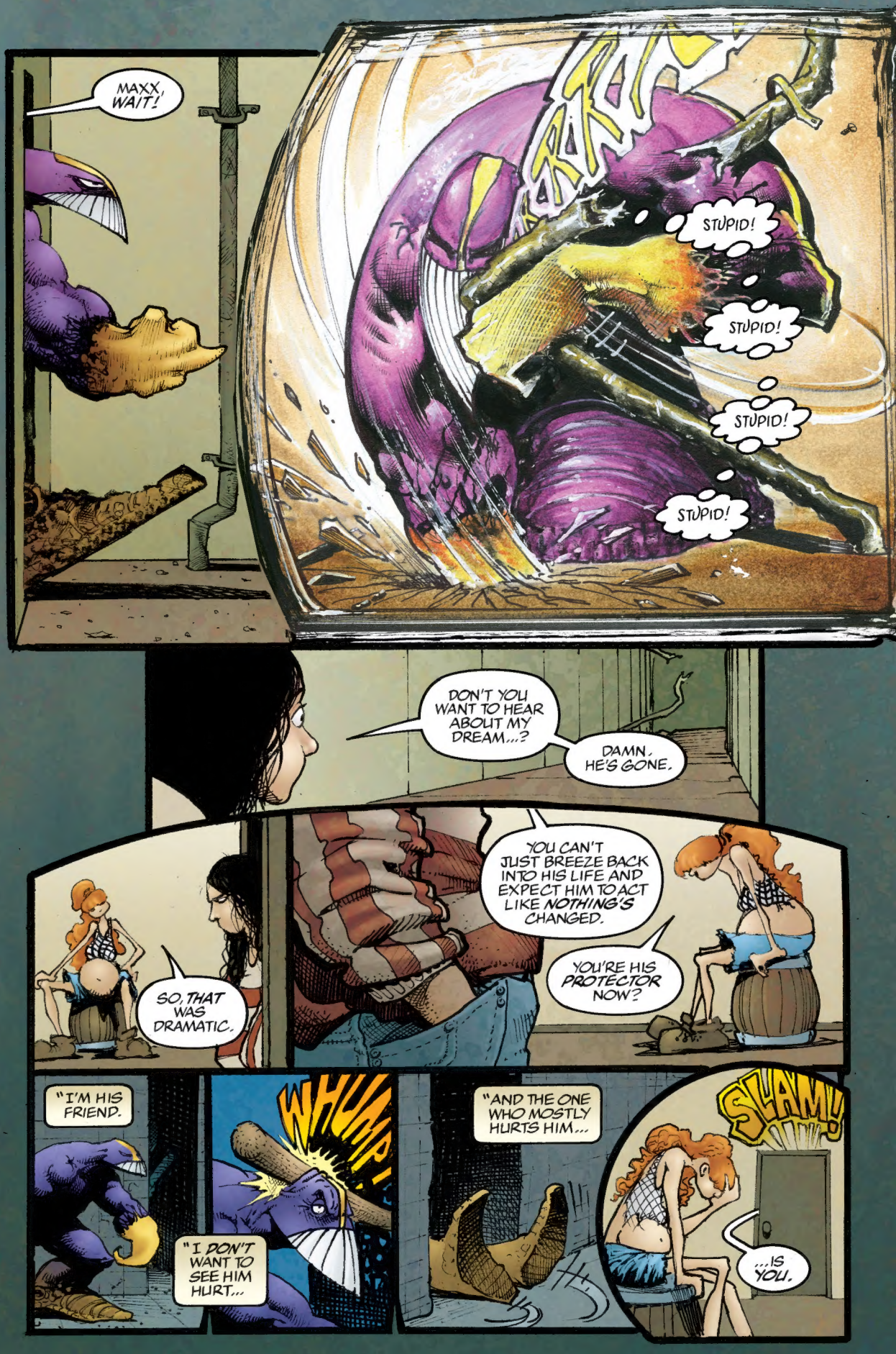
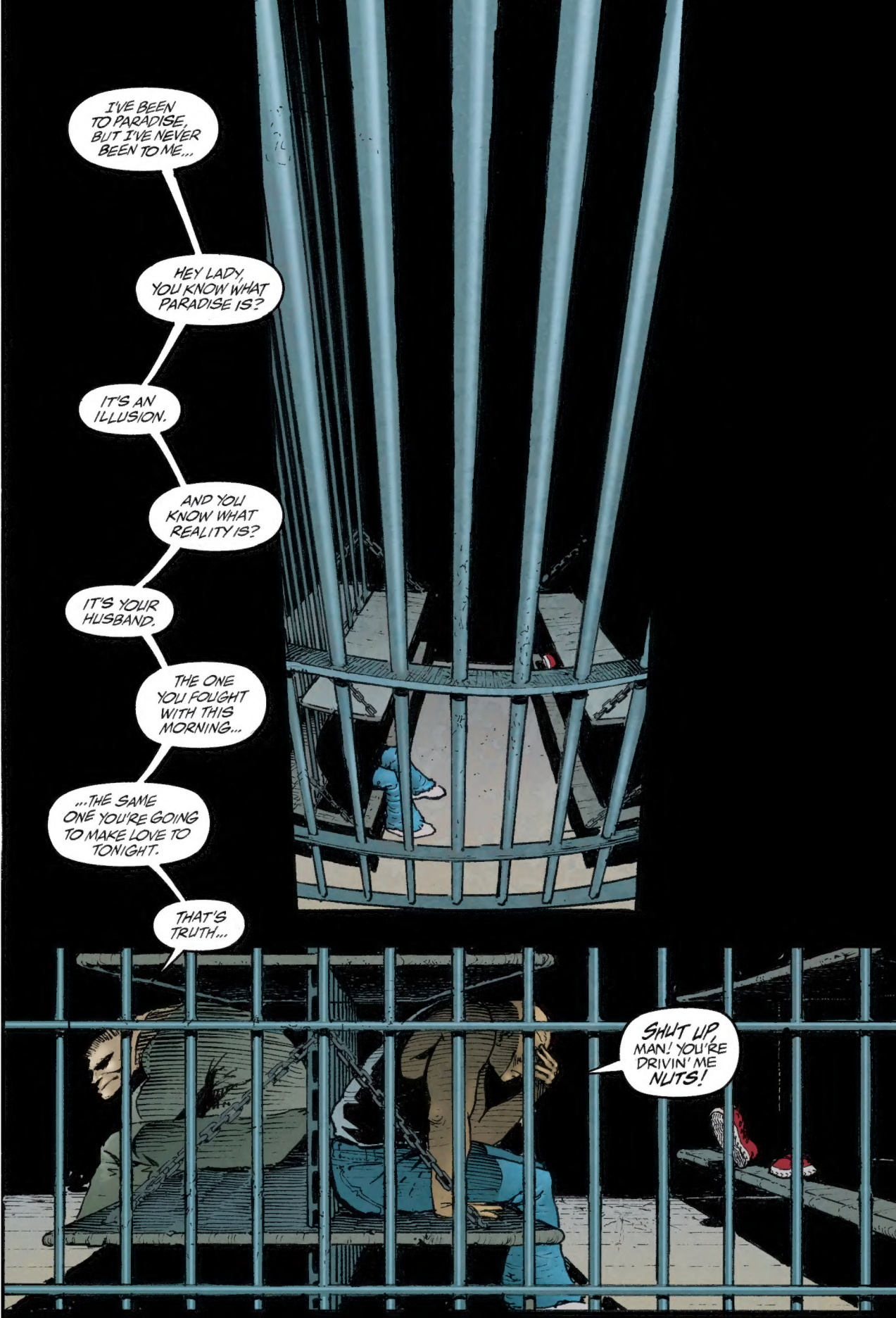
HOW COULD YOU?


Um. YOU, JULIE. YOUR HAIR. IT'S...
FORGET HER HAIR. WHAT ABOUT HER...
IT'S CALLED A BELLY, MAXX. AND IT FEELS AS BIG AS A HOUSE!
HOW DID IT HAPPEN, YOU ASK? WELL... AFTER I MOVED AWAY TO FIND MYSELF, LIFE STILL SUCKED. SO I CHANGED MY NAME, BORROWED A CAR, FILLED UP ON SUGAR AND CARBS, AND RODE HIGH UNTIL I BOTTOMED OUT AND HAD TO FIND MORE SUGAR, MORE GUYS, ANOTHER CAR... YOU GET THE IDEA. ANYWAY, THEN I THOUGHT I KILLED THIS GUY, BUT HE TURNED OUT TO BE AN XMAS TREE. THEN THIS OTHER GUY SHOWED UP. HE WAS HOT-LOOKING SO I SLEPT WITH HIM IN A GIANT DONUT. BUT THEN I STOLE HIS CAR.


I'M KNOCKED UP, ENCLIENTE, WITH CHILD. PREGGERS. ISN'T ANYONE GONNA SAY ANYTHING?
WE... err, WE WERE JUST SURPRISED IS ALL. WE JUST... ARE WE GONNA MEET THE DADDY?
WHO? OH, THE DONUT GUY? I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S THE SHARPSHOOTER, REALLY.
URRR...
GEE, YOU DON'T EVEN... WELL, I GUESS, I MEAN, IT'S YOUR LIFE.
IT'S JUST IT SEEMS, WELL... KIND OF...
SLUTTY.
WHAT?
OUT!
I DON'T NEED THAT ANTEDILUVIAN CRAP, CERTAINLY NOT FROM YOU!


MAXX, WAIT!
KRAK!
STUPID!
STUPID!
STUPID!
STUPID!
DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT MY DREAM...?
DAMN. HE'S GONE.
SO, THAT WAS DRAMATIC.
YOU CAN'T JUST BREEZE BACK INTO HIS LIFE AND EXPECT HIM TO ACT LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED.
YOU'RE HIS PROTECTOR NOW?
"I'M HIS FRIEND.
WHUMP!
"I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM HURT...
"AND THE ONE WHO MOSTLY HURTS HIM...
SLAM!
...IS YOU.


I'VE BEEN TO PARADISE, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ME...
HEY LADY, YOU KNOW WHAT PARADISE IS?
IT'S AN ILLUSION.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT REALITY IS?
IT'S YOUR HUSBAND.
THE ONE YOU FOUGHT WITH THIS MORNING...
...THE SAME ONE YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE LOVE TO TONIGHT.
THAT'S TRUTH...
SHUT UP, MAN! YOU'RE DRIVIN' ME NUTS!

HEY MAN, THAT'S A FRIGGIN' GREAT SONG!
NOT WHEN YOU SING IT, IT AIN'T!
WHY DON'T YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, LIKE THIS HARMLESS LITTLE DUDE?
HARMLESS, MY ASS!
THERE'S A BUNCH O' THESE CREEPY LITTLE GUYS ALL OVER TOWN, IF YOU KNOW WHERE T' LOOK.
THEY LOOK HUMAN, BUT THEY'RE NOT.
SHUT UP!
... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?
THEY C'N CHANGE SHAPE... EAT THINGS... BUT IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, I MIGHT KNOW A WAY TO--
HEY...

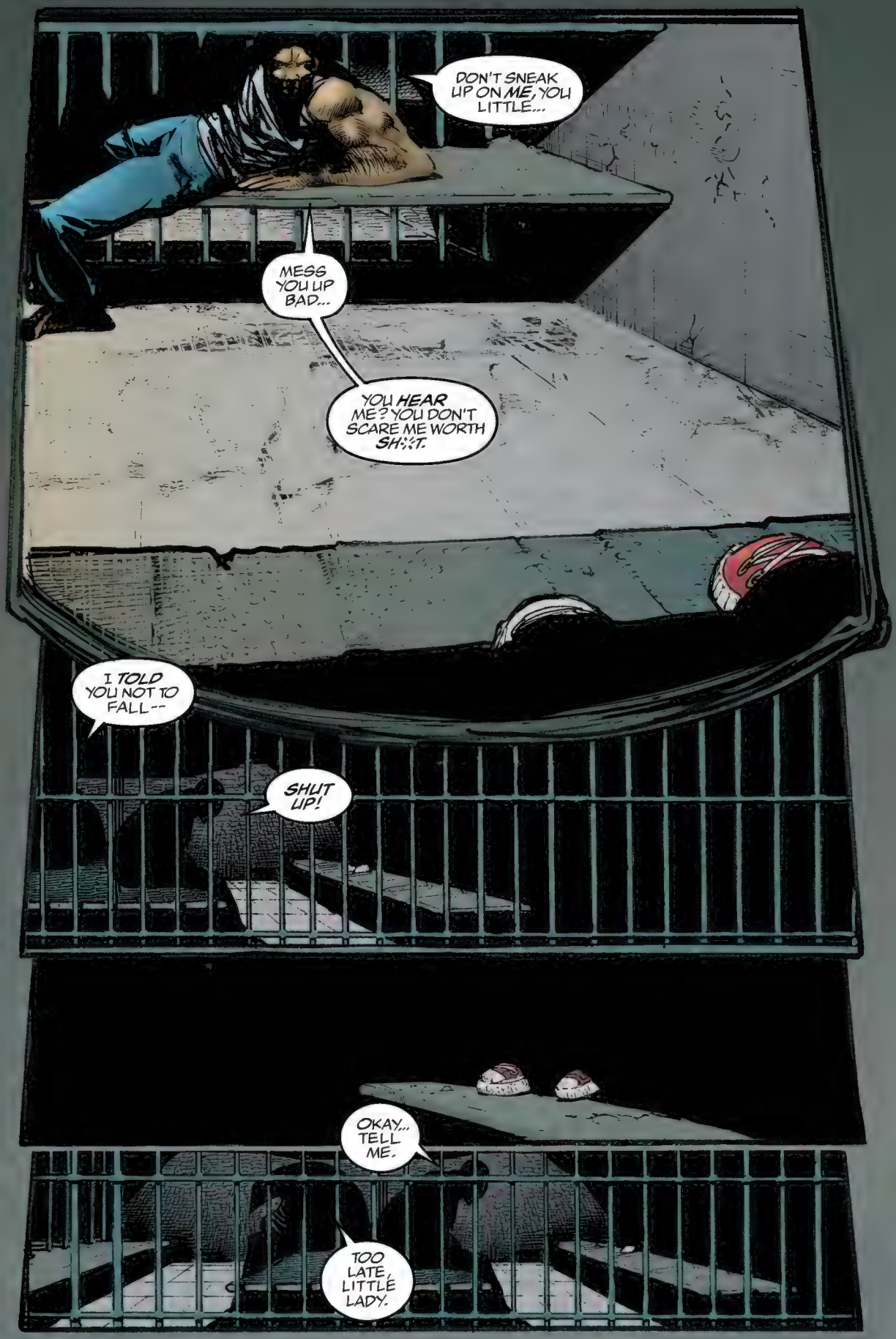
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU BETTER HIDE, YOU LI'L MUTHA'...
JUST SHUT UP.

Sooner or later, you're gonna have to let your fears out of the jar.
Well, Julia's gone nuts...
And Maxx has run off someplace...
I guess I'll just sit here and listen to the confessions of my outlaw dad.
I've been putting it off, and it's not like I really CARE...
Still...hey, why isn't there any SOUND?
NO!
CLK
How could I DO that? How much did I record over?
...SPLIT THE TURNIP. WOW, HONEY, I NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THAT.
I GUESS NOW YOU CAN REALLY UNDERSTAND THE REST OF IT...ANYWAY, I WAS BORN IN OHIO...

HEY, MAXX.
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. I CAN HEAR YOUR LABORED BREATHING!
LOOK, YOU CAN'T HIDE OUT FOREVER! YOU KNOW THAT. JULIE NEEDS US NOW.
OH, SURE. SHE ACTS TOUGH... SHE ACTS EXTREME...
WHAT AM I SAYING? SHE IS EXTREME! SHE QUIT HER JOB, QUIT US, COMMITTED CRIMES, USED GUYS LIKE WE USE PARKING METERS, GOT HERSELF PREGNANT...
AND YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT, EITHER! NO-YIPPEE-SIREE! IT'S JUST ANOTHER ONE OF HER HEAD GAMES TO TEST US AND MAKE US CRAZY AND... AND...
WHERE WAS I?

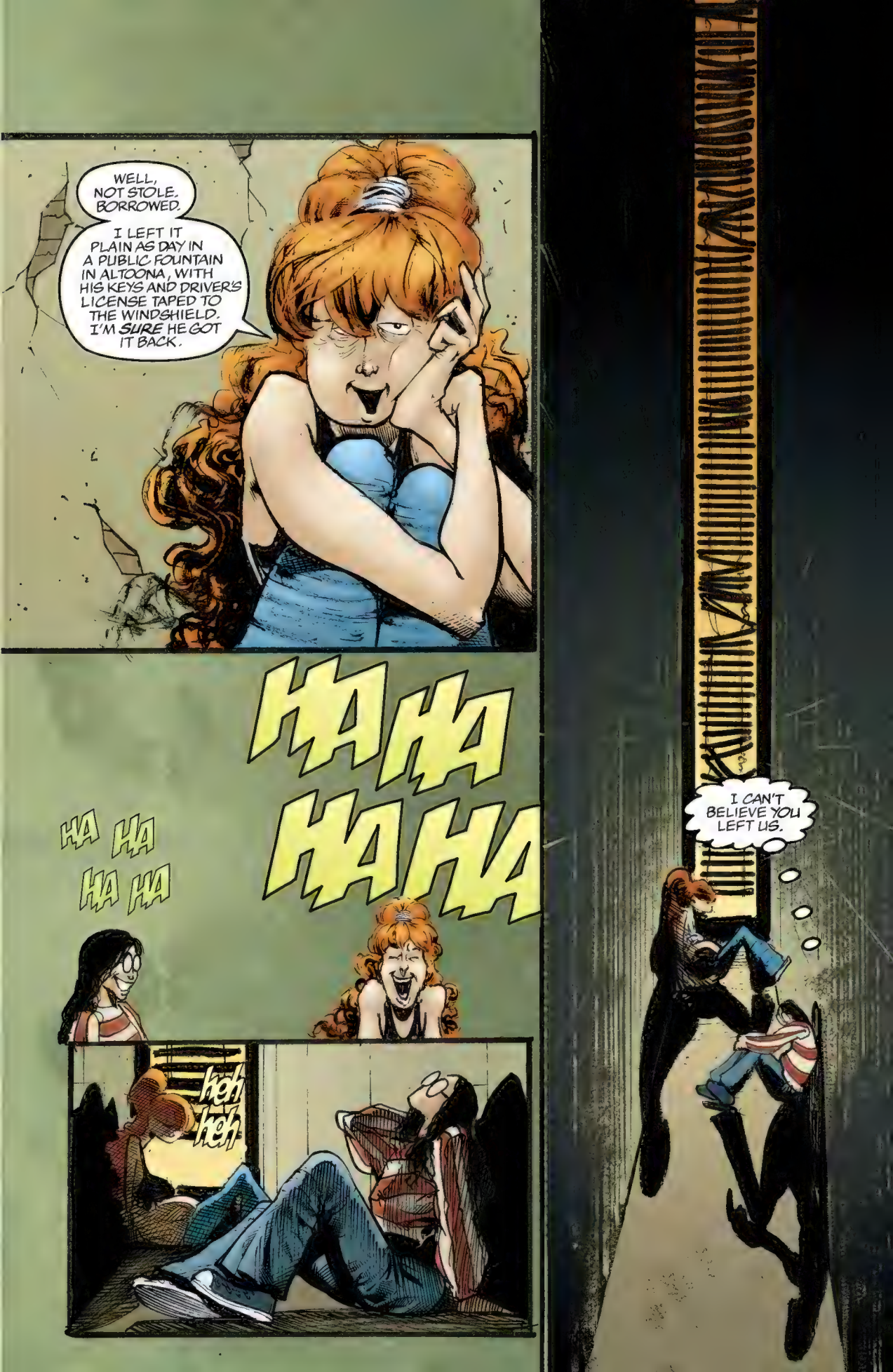
OH, YEAH.
BUT WE CAN'T SHUT HER OUT. THERE'S THE BABY, FOR ONE THING. AND JULIA DOES NEED US.
SHE MAKES ME FURIOUS TOO, YOU CALLED HER A... A SLUT AND I CAN'T HELP IT, I SORT OF FEEL THAT WAY TOO.
THIS'LL BE ONE MORE THING I CAN BEAT MYSELF UP ABOUT.
IT'S NOT HIP AND I KNOW IT'S KINDA A DOUBLE STANDARD, BUT SHE'S NOT EVEN SORRY! I MEAN, ISN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO GROVEL A LITTLE AND APOLOGIZE TO US?
SAY SOMETHING, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
FINE! SHUT ME OUT TOO. OUR LIVES ARE FALLING APART HERE AND YOU DON'T EVEN CARE. SOME STINKIN' SUPER HERO YOU TURNED OUT TO BE!
AND NOW YOU MADE ME ANGRY. JUST GREAT.
-MOAN-
SARAH, WAIT...
MUGGED...
GET... HELP...

SHAPE-CHANGERS. MAN. WHAT KINDA FOOL HE TAKE ME FOR?
FOOL'S SAYING I WON'T LAST ALL NIGHT...
HUH?


DON'T SNEAK UP ON ME, YOU LITTLE...
MESS YOU UP BAD...
YOU HEAR ME? YOU DON'T SCARE ME WORTH SH!T.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO FALL--
SHUT UP!
OKAY... TELL ME.
TOO LATE, LITTLE LADY.

JULIE, I WANT TO...
WHY ARE YOU SITTING OUT HERE IN THE HALL?
I LOCKED MYSELF OUT. THERE ARE NO LOCKSMITHS OPEN ON SUNDAY. AND I THINK I LEFT THE MACARONI BOILING.
PLEASE DON'T SAY THIS IS SYMBOLIC OF HOW I RUN MY LIFE.
OKAY, I WON'T. BUT IT IS.
THANK YOU. WHERE'S MAXX?
HE'S GONE. MAYBE FOR GOOD.
DON'T BET ON IT.
AND HERE'S A WORD OF ADVICE YOU PROBABLY WON'T LISTEN TO: DON'T WASTE TOO MUCH SYMPATHY ON ME OR MAXX. YOU'LL ONLY GET HURT.
I DON'T GET HURT.
SAYS THE WOMAN WHO'S ONE BIG EXPOSED NERVE END!

SARAH, ONLY A FOOL WOULD GET HURT OVER SOMETHING THAT'S NOT ABOUT HER. IT'S BETWEEN ME AND MAXX.
REMEMBER, I'M THE ONE WHO *INVENTED* NOT GETTING HURT.
WOW. I'M IMPRESSED.
HEY, DID YOU JUST CALL ME A "*WOMAN*"?
WELL, YOU'RE HARDLY A *CHILD*. I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS *MATURE*, AND TOUGH ENOUGH TO HANDLE ALL OF THIS, SARAH. AND AFTER WHAT I SAW *THIS* MORNING...!
I MEAN A LOT OF *IMMATURE* PEOPLE HAVE ***SEX***. THAT'S NOT THE POINT. MAXX IS A *GOOD* GUY AND IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU'VE MADE ***CHOICES*** ABOUT WHO AND WHAT YOU WANT IN YOUR LIFE...
OH, THAT. Uh, ACTUALLY MAXX AND I AREN'T AS... AS ***SERIOUS*** AS IT MAY HAVE LOOKED...
NOT SERIOUS? IT WAS ***JUST SEX***? THAT WEASELLY LITTLE... YOU'RE JUST A ***CHILD***!
VERY FUNNY! ANYWAY, I'M NOT THE ONE COMING OFF A SIX-MONTH ***LOVE BINGE***!
YOU ***REALLY*** SLEPT WITH A GUY AND THEN ***STOLE*** HIS CAR?


WELL, NOT STOLE. BORROWED.
I LEFT IT PLAIN AS DAY IN A PUBLIC FOUNTAIN IN ALTOONA, WITH HIS KEYS AND DRIVER'S LICENSE TAPED TO THE WINDSHIELD. I'M SURE HE GOT IT BACK.
HAHA HAHA
HA HA HA HA
heh heh
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LEFT US.

SO WHEN ARE YOU DUE?
ANOTHER MONTH, GIVE OR TAKE.
WELL... I GUESS I CAN'T STAY MAD AT YOU FOREVER.
YOU MEAN YOU'VE DECIDED TO "FORGIVE" ME FOR BEING A FALLEN WOMAN. LUCKY ME.
MAYBE I JUST DECIDED TO LIVE MY LIFE AND NOT CARE WHAT ANYBODY THINKS.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, SERIOUSLY?
JUST SPIT IT OUT. I CAN TAKE IT. THE TRUTH.
SLUT.
BONK

OKAY, I CAN'T TAKE IT.
SARAH? ALL KIDDING ASIDE, WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK?
WELL, I MEAN, HOW CAN I JUDGE? MY MOM LIVED IN A FREE LOVE COMMUNE IN NEBRASKA ALL THROUGH 1971.
I GREW UP PARTLY IN A WOMAN'S LESBIAN COLLECTIVE AND PARTLY WITH TWO STEPDADS NAMED BUZZ AND STEVE.
IN MY HIGH SCHOOL THIS YEAR, THREE GIRLS GAVE BIRTH IN THE BATHROOM AND ONE OF THE TEACHERS WAS CAUGHT SLEEPING WITH THE FOOTBALL TEAM.
SO, YOU SEE, BY THOSE STANDARDS...
YOU'RE STILL A SLUT.
OF COURSE YOU REALIZE...
NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU!
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
TICKLE
TICKLE
TICKLE
GEE, SARAH, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY UNRESOLVED ANGER YOU'RE STILL WORKING THROUGH...
...WOULD YOU?
TICKLE
TICKLE
SAY IT! SAY IT!
OK-OKAY!
IGIVEIGIVE IGIVEIGIVEIGIVE! YOU AREN'T A SLUT!

YES, I AM. AT LEAST, I ACTED SLUTTISH. NOBODY'S PERFECT. I'M A SLUT, MAXX IS A LUNEY-TOON, AND YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF A MASS MURDER--
Oops. THAT DIDN'T COME OUT...
SARAH, WAIT.
DAMN. . . .

GET Y'R TAIL IN THERE, MADDOG!
AND DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE ON THAT COT. THE LAST GUY IN HERE UP AN' DIED ON IT!
CLANG
DO YOU KNOW WHAT PARADISE IS...?

SARAH...
COME BACK...
MUGGED...
SO, THE THING IS... I'VE DRIVEN AWAY EVERYBODY WHO EVER CARED ABOUT ME. SARAH, MAXX, THE DONUT GUY. EVEN MY SHRINK HATES ME.
:sigh:
WELL, KID, I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME.